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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 10QUITO25, Celebration of Correa's Three Years in Power

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#10QUITO25**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
10QUITO25	2010-01-20 21:05	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Quito

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/20/1/1355/cable-244517.html>

VZCZCXYZ0012
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0025/01 0202105
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 202105Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0666
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000025

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/01/20
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [MARR](#) [SENV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [EC](#)
SUBJECT: Celebration of Correa's Three Years in Power

CLASSIFIED BY: Andrew Chritton, Charge d'Affaires; REASON: 1.4(D) ...

id: 244517
date: 1/20/2010 21:05
refid: 10QUITO25
origin: Embassy Quito
classification: CONFIDENTIAL
destination:
header:
VZCZCXYZ0012
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0025/01 0202105
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 202105Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0666
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000025

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/01/20
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [MARR](#) [SENV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [EC](#)
SUBJECT: Celebration of Correa's Three Years in Power

CLASSIFIED BY: Andrew Chritton, Charge d'Affaires; REASON: 1.4(D)

¶1. (C) Summary: President Correa's PAIS movement celebrated on January 16 the third anniversary of the government of the "Citizens' Revolution." The festive event gathered over 80,000 people who cheered President Correa (although some attendees were reportedly coerced). While listing his government's specific achievements, Correa sought to demonize the usual suspects, such as the private media, the traditional political parties, and the oligarchy. He also played the nationalism card. The event showed the government's ability to mobilize large numbers of people, and made the turnout at protests by teachers, students, labor, and indigenous over the last few months look insignificant. End Summary.

CELEBRATING BIG

¶2. (SBU) About 80,000 people attended the Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (PAIS) celebrations on January 16 to commemorate the Correa government's third anniversary. The event took place on the streets of Ambato city, capital of Tungurahua province in central Ecuador. The government set out 60 stands and nine stages where government officials explained their work and musicians performed to entertain the crowd during the daylong event. Flags, signs, and light green clothing (the PAIS color) peppered the mass of Ecuadorians congregated to support their government. Correa's cabinet and many other government officials were in attendance.

¶3. (C) The opposition raised questions as to how the government paid for the celebrations, including transporting PAIS supporters from throughout the country to Ambato and feeding them. While the organizers did not reveal the total cost of the event, they denied that public funds were employed and emphasized that PAIS government

officials donated 10 percent of their salaries to the movement, claiming that those funds paid for the event. There were reports that some recipients of government assistance were forced to attend, including an embassy official's employee, who had received a subsidy to help purchase a home.

CORREA'S SPEECH: ATTACKING THE USUAL SUSPECTS

¶4. (SBU) Correa recalled that the citizens' revolution began after international pressure resulted in his resignation as Finance Minister in 2005, when with limited resources he and three or four friends started travelling the country advocating for political change. The motto of the speech was "Do not forget!", an attempt to point out to Ecuadorians that they were better off now than before his government. Correa described the past as a time when the "partidocracia" (ruling political parties) and "the oligarchy that speaks in Spanish but thinks in English" ruled. He made several direct and indirect pejorative remarks about the Gutierrez administration (2000-05) throughout his speech.

¶5. (SBU) Correa advocated for the restrictive Communications Law now under consideration in the National Assembly, mocked the private media campaign in favor of freedom of expression, and attacked the media: "We don't fear you." He called the media the "voice of a few with money." Correa stated proudly that his government had made bankers responsible for the 1999 banking crisis, introduced responsible management of natural resources, eliminated exploitative labor practices, and increased salaries. The President recalled an achievement from his days as finance minister under the Palacios administration, when he annulled a regulation by which public spending could not increase by more than 3 percent per year.

¶6. (SBU) In Correa's view, Ecuador's economic policy is now centered on the welfare of the Ecuadorian people by promoting and protecting national production and employment, in contrast with the past when it sought the applause of Wall Street and cocktail parties in Washington. "Today, this country's economic policy is decided exclusively by Ecuadorians, the owners of this country, without interferences from any class, be it foreign powers, transnational companies, international bureaucracies and foundations, NGOS, or all those people who want to do in our countries what they could not do in their own," he concluded.

EXTOLLING THREE YEARS OF GOVERNMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

¶7. (SBU) The second half of Correa's speech lauded the government's concrete achievements over the past three years in different areas. He praised the 2008 constitution and defended it against opposition charges that it would allow gay marriage or abortion. Turning to public works, Correa said that his government increased investment on roads from \$300 million per year to \$1.3 billion during the government of the citizens' revolution. His description involved more promises than a list of finished projects: "the best is yet to come...the roads, the airports, the bridges...the hydroelectrical plants, the refineries, will be there."

¶8. (SBU) In regard to education, Correa stated that his government had eliminated the \$25 fee paid in public schools, hired 12,000 teachers, improved teachers' salaries, built schools, provided technology to schools, and distributed uniforms and food among the poorest students. He lamented that teachers' union leaders opposed

the government's decision to evaluate the performance of teachers, but stated that his government won that fight. In the area of health, he supported the work of Health Minister Carolina Chang, whom he thought was being politically persecuted through embezzlement charges (for allegedly not following proper procedures in procuring ambulances). He said that public hospitals were for the first time equipped with sophisticated equipment such as CT scanners, fees for medical consultations were eliminated, and new hospitals were being built or remodeled.

¶9. (SBU) Correa praised the work of Vice President Lenin Moreno with vulnerable groups, including the census of the disabled. In the area of housing, he said that his government built 180,000 houses in three years and increased the housing subsidy from \$500 to \$5,000. In agriculture, he said that previous administrations wanted Ecuador to enter an free trade agreement, which would have ruined local production. Correa noted that the Banco de Fomento's work had improved and that his administration introduced the urea fertilizer subsidy for farmers. He highlighted that his government invested in improving and increasing the equipment of the public security forces and raised the salaries of police and military personnel.

¶10. (SBU) Correa argued that the Yasuni-ITT initiative (under which petroleum would not be extracted from the Yasuni National Park in return for international support) belonged to his government and denied that his government had lost the green elements in it, a reference to the resignation of Foreign Minister Fander Falconi and the estrangement of former Constituent Assembly President Alberto Acosta. He vowed to support the Yasuni-ITT project without compromising national sovereignty. In comparing his foreign policy with that of former president Lucio Gutierrez, he said that his was sovereign while Gutierrez "shamefully accepted foreign bases" on Ecuadorian soil, a reference to the now-closed U.S. Forward Operating Location in Manta. Finally, he argued that because the opposition was unable to win elections, and because "21st century invasions" (apparently meaning Honduras-like government overthrows inspired by outsiders) would be overly shameless, the opposition conspired to destabilize his government by creating the perception

of chaos and by generating scandals involving government officials.
CHRITTON

=====CABLE ENDS=====